

PRIORITIZATION RANKINGS as of January 27, 2009 Rankings listed such as 3A, 3B were tied in importance.

Task Group A: Identify practices and models in peer states.		Action item	Priority Rank 1 - first priority to 5 least priority
1	Interchange Agreements: How other states view “paper barriers” agreements and what, if any, public role has been played with respect to them.	1.1.1	2
2	Container carriers & providers: Any use of public loan pools, investment funds, or other incentive mechanisms to encourage development by container carriers or providers.	2.3.1	3A
3	Investigate ways to develop and/or redevelop loading facilities for agriculture products across Montana	3.1.3	3B
4	Haulage rights: Public actions affecting rail access through haulage rights, especially for specialized agricultural producers.	3.2.2	4
5	State rail authorities: Research and report on state-level organizations that have worked to preserve rail infrastructure and enhance rail service through rail authorities.	3.2.4	1

Task Group B: Develop information from Montana rail carriers, container providers, and shipper/producer groups.		Action item	Priority Rank 1 - first priority to 11 least priority
1	Describe interchange agreements in the state, including development of scenarios , and identifying published rates for certain shipping options. This is of particular interest to shippers of forest and industrial	1.1.1	4
2	Clarify market thresholds of rail carriers and intermodal container providers, needed to renew and expand intermodal rail service.	2.1.1	1
		2.1.2	2
3	Investigate creative ideas for expanding intermodal services, including consideration of using salvaged intermodal containers; state-ownership of a container fleet; and development on short lines of intermodal facilities; and other avenues identified.	2.2.1	3
		2.2.2	6
		2.2.3	8
4	Investigate new partnerships and ways to increase and improve access to UP, CP and Montana shortlines.	3.1.1	7
5	Increase service and improve competitive access to MT shortlines	3.1.2	10
6	Investigate ways to develop and/or redevelop loading facilities for agriculture products across Montana	3.1.3	5
7	Develop effective coal shipping partnerships with BNSF needed to serve Montana’s expanding coal production.	4.1.1	9
8	Develop new partnerships to encourage new railroad spur lines to serve Montana’s new and expanding coal production.	4.1.2	11

Task Group C: Describe and document existing mechanisms, including identification of technical assistance resources targeting effective use of existing tools such as:		Action item	Priority Rank 1 - first priority to 5 least priority
1	State rail authority: develop information relevant to issues involving a state rail authority.	3.2.4	1
2	Increase and improve competitive access to Montana shortlines;include wheat and grain rate mediation process	3.1.2	4
3	Rail Industry Agreement (Rail Industry Working Group) process.	1.1.1	3
4	Interchange agreements enabling rail service for new and expanding markets, particularly for industrial and forest products shippers.	1.2.1	2

5	Other mechanisms involving Ports, short lines, Board of Investments, et al., as may be identified in prior tasks.	—	5
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Task Group D: Identify and address gaps in the state , including consideration of private mechanisms, public institutions, and public incentives. Options for public policies and institutions should include consideration of economic thresholds and gaps, and estimate fiscal scale of options.		Action item	Priority Rank 1 - first priority to 7 least priority
1	Intermodal rail carrier service: potential incentive mechanisms to foster improved services across classes of industrial shippers.	2.1.1	1
2	Intermodal container availability: potential incentive mechanisms to foster improved services across classes of industrial shippers.	2.1.2	2
3	Investigate ways to develop and/or redevelop loading facilities for agriculture products across Montana	3.1.3	3A
4	Intermodal services focusing on development of incentives to enhance services to specialized agricultural shippers.	3.2.1	3B
5	Identify interested partners among short line carriers, container providers, and investors to begin development of practices identified in 2.3.1.	2.3.2	4
6	Address other gaps identified through prior activities.	—	5

Task Group E: Track and Inform State & Federal Policy.		Action item	Priority Rank 1 - first priority to 4 least priority
1	Common carrier obligations.	3.2.5	1A
2	Rail shipping rates.	4.1.3	1B
3	Provide information to Governor's Office of Economic Development to bring pressure on the inactive STB to address issues concerning shipping rates, etc.	4.1.3	1C
4	Provide information to GOED to quantify the impact of Montana's coal severance tax on the competitiveness of state's coal.	4.1.4	2